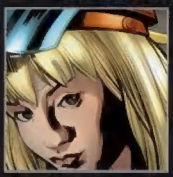
Val's Blogging The Fantastic



About Us: A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary and extraordinary!

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posted by: valeria_richards

As They Say Over Here...

Off on holiday! You guys, Scotland is ALREADY AWESOME and we haven't even gotten there yet! I thought it would never get here and we really needed to get away.

The stuff with Doom hasn't really gone away, but Dad's stopped bringing it up around us. Doom killed Sue-from-the-future (I've ceased referring to her as Mom -- I mean, technically she is, but seeing as it's all wrapped up in time-travel, can you really trust it?) and he's still in jail awaiting trial. Anyone wanna bet how long that'll stick?

Uncle Johnny has been really bummed out since his girlfriend got stuck in another dimension. He barely made Uncle Ben's engagement party, because he was out all night with his band or groupies or whatever.

Oh yeah! Uncle Ben TOTALLY got engaged! His fiancée, Debbie, is cool, and she seems to be adjusting really well, although I don't think Mom thinks so. She had a whole talk with Debbie about what she would be sacrificing, things that Debbie hasn't really thought about, I guess. Giving up your privacy, being in mortal danger on a much more regular basis...normal stuff for us, but stuff you probably should take into consideration before marrying into this family.

And last but not least, Franklin. Big bro has been acting much more like little bro lately. I know he's mad at me for being smart. Jealous. It's not my fault, though. I wish he would talk to me more, I thought me being smart would make us closer.

Well, that's what vacations are for, right? Just get away from all the weirdness for a little while. SCOTLAND! I can't wait to land!

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Romantic!

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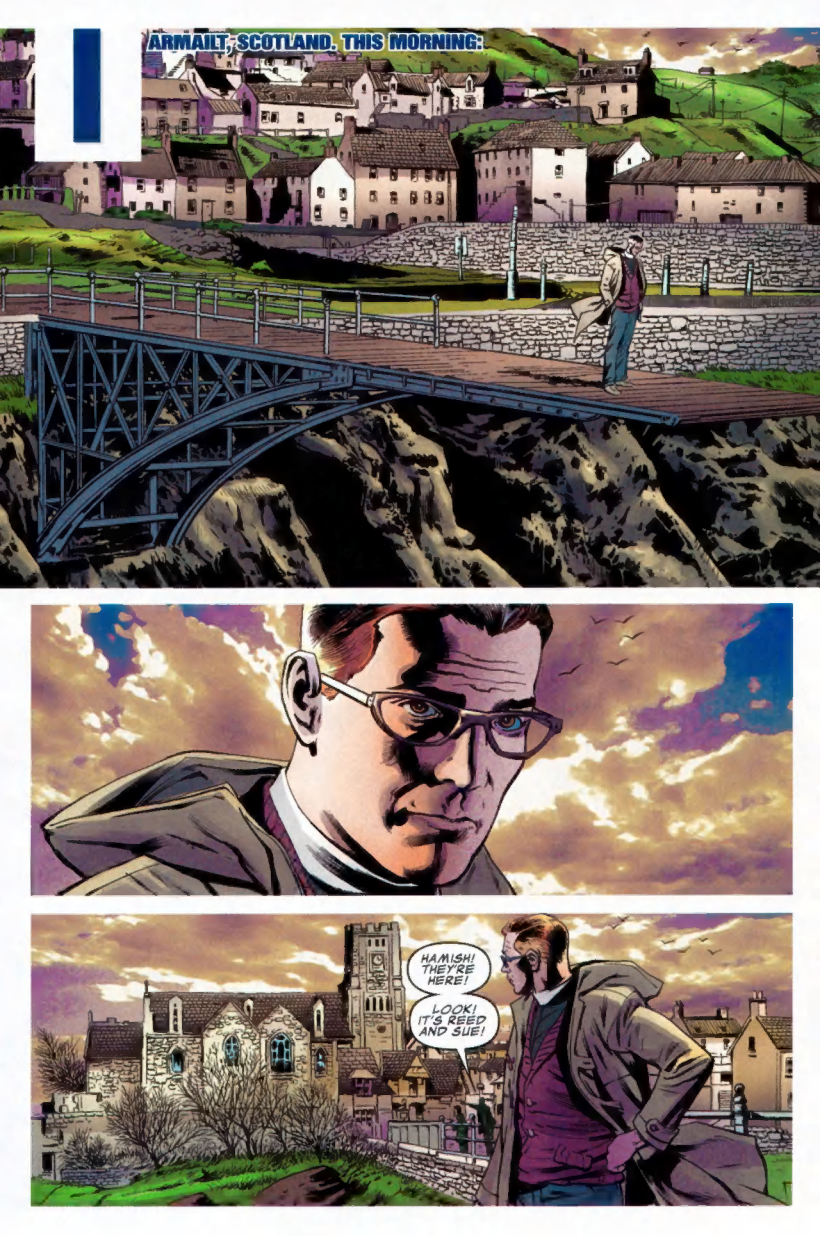
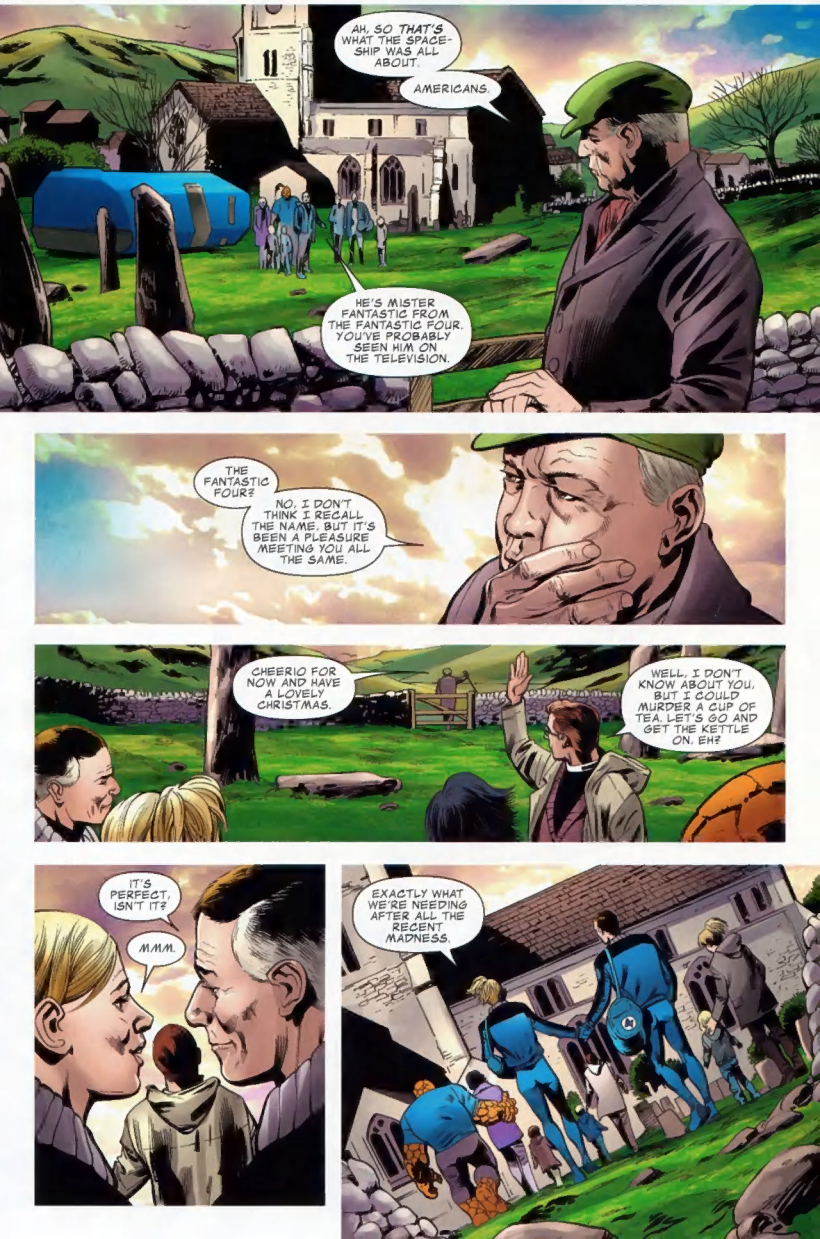
PLEASE, MISTER McLEOD. PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.
OCH, NOBODY'S GOING TO HURT YOU, RHONA. YOU'RE JUST BEING HORMONAL.
BESIDES, IT ISN'T YOU HE'S AFTER. IT'S THE WEE MAN SLEEPING IN YOUR TUMMY.
NOW C'MON BACK HOME WHERE IT'S NICE AND WARM.
ALL THIS STRESS IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE THAT BABY TASTE FUNNY.


ARMAILT, SCOTLAND. THIS MORNING:
HAMISH! THEY'RE HERE!
LOOK! IT'S REED AND SUE!

OH MY GOD. LOOK AT YOU GUYS! YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY. IS THIS WHAT ALL THAT SCOTTISH AIR DOES FOR YOUR COMPLEXION?
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HAMISH. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE THE WEDDING.
I KNOW. IT'S RIDICULOUS. I'VE GOT ONE BLOODY COUSIN AND IT'S BEEN YEARS.
TELL ME THIS ISN'T ANGUS. HE WAS JUST A LITTLE BABY WHEN YOU BROUGHT HIM TO NEW YORK.
WELL, THAT'S HIM NEARLY ELEVEN NOW, SUE. JUST A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN FRANKLIN. WHAT A BIG BOY YOU ARE, EH, FRANKLIN? AND WHAT AGE ARE YOU, VALERIA?
I'M TWO AND A HALF, AUNT MURIEL. LOVELY TO MEET YOU AND THANKS AGAIN FOR SHARING YOUR HOME WITH US OVER CHRISTMAS.

SHE'S, UH, CERTAINLY HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER, ISN'T SHE?
LET'S HOPE SO, HONEY. THIS IS MY FIANCÉE DEBBIE, BY THE WAY. WE JUST GOT ENGAGED TH' WEEK BEFORE LAST.
I HOPE WE AREN'T PUTTING YOU OUT HERE, MURIEL.
OCH, NOT AT ALL, DEBBIE. YOU'RE PRACTICALLY FAMILY NOW.
HALLO THERE, MINISTER. I'M HOPING YOU'VE GOT YOUR SERMON WRITTEN UP FOR TOMORROW MORNING, EH?
OH, DON'T YOU WORRY YOURSELF, HECTOR. LISTEN, HAVE YOU MET MY COUSIN REED FROM AMERICA? HE'S STAYING WITH US FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.


AH, SO THAT'S WHAT THE SPACE-SHIP WAS ALL ABOUT.
AMERICANS.
HE'S MISTER FANTASTIC FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR. YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN HIM ON THE TELEVISION.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
NO, I DON'T THINK I RECALL THE NAME. BUT IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING YOU ALL THE SAME.
CHEERIO FOR NOW AND HAVE A LOVELY CHRISTMAS.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I COULD MURDER A CUP OF TEA. LET'S GO AND GET THE KETTLE ON, EH?
IT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT?
MMM.
EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE NEEDING AFTER ALL THE RECENT MADNESS.

THAT AFTERNOON:
ANY LUCK GETTING JOHNNY ON THE CELL?
STILL NO SIGNAL. HAMISH SAID IT'S TH' HILLS AROUND HERE, BUT THIS IS ONE A' REED'S FREAKY GIZMOS.
I HOPE HE GETS BACK IN TIME FROM THAT TV SPECIAL HE WAS DOIN'. THE HOLIDAYS JUST WOULDN'T BE TH' SAME WITHOUT JOHNNY.
HE'LL BE BACK. NO WAY HE'D MISS CHRISTMAS MORNING WITH THE FAMILY.
I HOPE I AIN'T DRAGGED YA AWAY FROM YOUR FOLKS THIS YEAR.
OH, BEN. DON'T BE SILLY...
...YOU'RE MY FAMILY NOW.

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE, UNCLE BEN? WHAT ARE THOSE POLICEMEN DOING IN THE GRAVEYARD?
TA BE HONEST, I GOT NO IDEA...
OH, HELLO THERE. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER COLD ONE, EH? SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING WE MIGHT EVEN BE IN FOR A WHITE CHRISTMAS.
THAT'D BE COOL.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HEARD, BUT TOM MCNAB'S WEE DOG BUSTER HERE GOT HIT BY A CAR YESTERDAY.
IT'S AWFUL SAD, AND POOR TOM JUST COULDN'T FACE COMING ALONG FOR THE BURIAL. HIS WIFE SAID HE'S IN A TERRIBLE STATE.
BURYING A DOG IN THE GROUNDS OF A CHURCH? ISN'T THAT A LITTLE SACRILEGIOUS?
NOT AROUND HERE, MY DEAR. IF YOU LOOK AT THESE GRAVESTONES, YOU'LL SEE CATS AND DOGS AND RABBITS AND PARROTS ALL BURIED WITH A CHRISTIAN DIGNITY.
WE LOVE OUR PETS IN IARMAILT, MISS...AND TO BE ABSOLUTELY HONEST, IT GIVES US SOMETHING TO DO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, WE'RE NOT EXACTLY NEW YORK CITY, SIR. WE DON'T REALLY DO CRIME AROUND HERE.

IARMAILT MEANS 'HEAVEN' IN ANCIENT SCOTS AND I'M PROUD TO SAY WE LIVE UP TO THAT REPUTATION.

NO CRIME, NO VIOLENCE, NO BURGLARIES AND THE MOST WONDERFUL SENSE OF COMMUNITY...

CAN YOU BELIEVE I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY ARRESTED ANYONE IN MY ENTIRE CAREER?

THE TOWNE CENTRE:
OH, MURIEL. I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH THIS PLACE. IT JUST LOOKS SO UNTOUCHED.
WELL, WE DO SEEM TO HAVE AVOIDED ALL THE BAD THINGS, SUSAN, AND THE COUNTRY WAY OF LIFE HAS BEEN AMAZING FOR MY MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.
YOU'RE LOOKING REALLY WELL, HAMISH SAID YOU HARDLY HAVE TO USE YOUR WHEEL-CHAIR AT ALL ANYMORE.
I WALK THREE MILES EVERY DAY NOW. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? FINDING THIS WEE TOWN WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO US. I THANK GOD FOR IT EVERY DAY.
COULD YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THE DOG FOR A MINUTE? HE'S NOT ALLOWED IN THE SHOPS AND I STILL NEED CANDLES FOR TOMORROW.
NO PROBLEM.
HAMISH IS SO EXCITED ABOUT REED BEING HERE. HE JUST WANTS DINNER TO BE PERFECT.
MRS. RICHARDS?
EXCUSE ME?
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU, MRS. RICHARDS. SOMEWHERE PRIVATE. I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN.
WHAT?
ON YOUR WAY NOW, RHONA. DON'T BE BOTHERING ONE OF THE VISITORS WITH ALL YOUR SILLY NONSENSE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, MRS. RICHARDS. I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE. SHE'S NOT A BAD GIRL BY ANY MEANS...
...JUST OUR WEE ECCENTRIC.

WELL, THE KIDS SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THEIR FLIGHT JACKETS, REED. I THINK SANTA AND UNCLE JOHNNY HAVE BEEN PRETTY GOOD TO THEM THIS YEAR, DON'T YOU?
AREN'T YOU WORRIED THE ELECTRICS WILL BREAK DOWN? YO KNOW...AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WITH OUR PHONES AND TV?
NO. THOSE WERE JUST SIGNAL MALFUNCTIONS. THE ELECTRICS IN THE JACKETS ARE ABSOLUTELY FINE.
LOOK OUT BELOW, LAND-LUBBERS!

WATCH THE CAR! DON'T YOU DENT YOUR UNCLE'S CAR, FRANKLIN...
1CTHUS 1
...AND ONLY ANOTHER HOUR UP THERE, OKAY? WE'VE GOT CHURCH AT ELEVEN-THIRTY!
NO WAY THAT COULD BE AS FUN AS IT LOOKS.
YEAH, THANKS FOR THE NINTENDO DS, DAD.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE TO GO TO STUPID CHURCH! WHO THE HECK GOES TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS MORNING? IT'S TOTALLY UNFAIR!
CAPSTAN

HEY! YOU SEE THAT BIG TREE OVER IN THE WOODS?
WHAT BIG TREE?
OVER THERE. I'LL RACE YOU TO IT.
BUT DAD SAID WE'RE NOT ALLOWED PAST THE RAILWAY LINE.
C'MON, YOU'LL BE SAFE AS LONG AS I'M HERE.
SHUT UP! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE OLDER ONE. YOU NEVER THINK HOW MUCH IT BUGS ME WHEN YOU PULL THAT STUFF?
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMASCULATE YOU, FRANKLIN. I JUST THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE FUN PLAYING RETURN OF THE JEDI IN THESE THINGS.
YOU REMEMBER THE SPEEDER-BIKE SCENE IN THE FOREST OF ENDOR?
I CAN'T DO THAT. I'D JUST SPLAT AGAINST THE TREES LIKE ONE OF THE STORMTROOPERS. I CAN'T GUIDE THE JACKET AS EASILY AS YOU CAN.

QUIT TRYING TO **SCARE** ME, YOU IDIOT. I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND A **BUSH** OR SOMETHING.

THIS ISN'T FUNNY, VAL! I'M TELLING MOM AND DAD!

VAL? IS THAT YOU?